Oil Well Ichapur-I

2. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether testing of the well Ichapur-I in oilgecene oil sand was inconclusive;

(b) whether reasons were identified by ONGC scientists for inconclusive resting of the well;

(c) whether conclusive testing and full assessment of the reservoir parameter were felt necessary at a very high level in ONGC, involving either drilling a new vertical well about 10 m. from existing well or side-tracing the existing well Ichapur-I at a suitable depth;

(d) if so, whether the same is being implemented; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The oilgecene sand in Ichapur-I well flowed intermittently negligible quantity of liquid and gaseous hydrocarbons. The amount of flow was so negligible that there was no scope of commercial production.

(b) Yes, Sir. The reasons for intermittent flow were identified.

(c) to (e). As per the normal practice drilled data from exploratory wells is subjected to critical review including outside experts.

The status of exploration in Bengal basin including results of Ichapur-I is being reviewed as part of this strategy to firm up an appropriate action plan.

Issuance of Permits

3. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria determined by the Central Government for issuing permits to trawlers for catching prawns;

(b) the year-wise number of permits issued by the Central Government to the trawlers during the last three years;

(c) whether the device to protect tortoise is available in all these trawlers;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests has made a request to the Ministry of Food Processing Industries in this regard;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the action being taken by the Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) to (g). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Garbage Based Power Projects

4. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government and each of the State Governments to promote projects for generating Energy from urban and industrial waste;

(b) whether any units for collecting and processing wastes have been set up in Kerala; and

(c) if so, the details and present status of each project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Government of India in the Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources launched a "National programme on Energy Recovery from Urban, Municipal and industrial Wastes", providing fiscal and financial incentives to promote projects for generation of Energy from Urban, Municipal and Industrial wastes. The programme covers all the States and Union Territories. Some State Governments e.g. U.P., A.P., M.P. and Maharashtra have announced their policy guidelines regarding allotment of land on land term lease basis, supply of garbage and purchase of power produced from the "Waste-to-Energy Projects" and have also taken steps for carrying out feasibility studies for assessing the potential in various cities in respective States for energy recovery.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Buildings on Agricultural Land

5. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer given to USQ No. 5142 dated September 11, 1996 regarding buildings on agricultural land and state :

(a) whether the buildings on 2714 plots on agricultural land have been demolished and the land converted for agricultural use; if not, the reasons thereof; and

(b) the action taken by the Government to get the remaining cases disposed of from the court on priority basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) No, sir. Cases are under process and legal proceedings are still pending in various competent courts.